



# The Values Action Team

Congressman Joe Pitts, Chairman

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204 Cannon House Office Building • Washington, DC 20515  
Contact: Gabe Neville (202) 225-2411 • FAX: (202) 225-2013

## —Sample Speech—

February 14, 2001

### Congress and Marriage

**Mr. Speaker,**

**There is no better time than Valentine's Day to talk about the importance of marriage to America.**

**Someone said recently that marriage is like the DNA of America.**

**It's the basic building block of our society.**

**Families simply can't function as well without the fundamental institution of marriage.**

**Now, the unfortunate fact is that marriage is in trouble in this country.**

**Between 1970 and 2000, the number of children living in single-parent families jumped from 8.2 million to 19.2 million.**

**That's a HUGE INCREASE.**

**And every one of those children runs a GREATLY increased risk of falling into lives of crime, poverty, and addiction.**

**Now, there are many single parents in this country working VALIANTLY to provide for their kids.**

**But they'd be the first to tell you that a caring spouse would be a great help to them.**

**And the dirty secret is that LAWS PASSED BY THIS CONGRESS PENALIZE people on welfare FOR GETTING MARRIED.**

**My colleagues, WE ARE INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE for the collapse of marriage in this country.**

**We need to change those laws...and SOON.**